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Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Box 2037
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ANNUAL MEETING - October 21st, 8 p.m. Willow Park Hall. On this evening we will elect a new Board of Directors for the coming year. The following have been nominated: President Gregg Erickson; Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer; Marie Lundstrom; one board member, Rod Wilson. Nominations from the floor are acceptable. Everybody MUST pay their dues before eligible to vote. You can pay them on the night of elections, but it would help if you could send your check to Box 2037 prior to the meeting. Single membership \$5.00, family \$7.50, junior as well as out-of-town memberships are \$2.50.

Suggested amendments to the Constitution were read at the September meeting. In accordance with Article VI of the Constitution and Article VII of the By-Laws of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, these proposed amendments are being submitted to the membership for action at the Annual Meeting in October:

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION:

At each annual meeting, the membership shall elect, from the membership at large, the following officers for the terms listed:

President	1 year
Vice-President	1 year
Secretary	1 year
Treasurer	1 year
Director	2 years

Nominations shall be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Voting shall be by secret written ballot. Any member may vote for an absent member provided the voting member has written authority from the absent member. Officers shall assume their duties upon adjournment of the annual meeting.

BY-LAWS Article II OFFICERS

Section 1 Duties of officers shall be:

President:	(a) As is
	(b) As is
Vice-President:	(a) As is
	(b) As is
Secretary:	(a) As is
	(b) To maintain complete business and historical records of the organization.
	(c) As is
	(d) As is
Treasurer:	(a) To receive and disburse all club dues, fees, and other monies.
	(b) To maintain complete financial records of the organization.
	(c) All other duties as assigned by the Executive Committee

Section 2 As is

BY-LAWS Article IV FINANCES

Section 1 As is

Section 2 It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to maintain complete financial records of the organization.

Section 3 As is

Section 4 All checks must bear the signatures of two of the following three officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer.

BY-LAWS Article III INITIATION FEE AND DUES

Section 1 As is

Section 2 Dues shall be due and payable on October 1 of each year. Any person or persons joining at any time of the year must pay the full yearly dues, which will entitle them to membership until the following October 1, except that, if they should join the Club on or after August 1, their membership will be valid to October 1 of the following year.

Section 3 Members who fail to remit their dues by January 1 following the date on which the dues are payable shall have their name deleted from the membership rolls. After October 1, any members who have not paid their dues for the coming year will be considered as guests, and they will be welcome to attend meetings and participate in trips and other activities to the extent authorized by guest status. They will not be eligible to vote nor to introduce or second motions, and they may be excluded from discussions at meetings at the option of the presiding officer. They will continue to receive the monthly publication and other material mailed to the membership until the following January 1.

A member in this guest status is eligible for nomination to office, but, before being elected to that office, a majority of the members present must vote to waive the requirement that he be a member. This waiver is to apply until the following January 1.

Section 4 As is
Section 5 As is

BY-LAWS Article VII AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

Section 1 These by-laws may be amended by two-thirds majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting, provided that the proposed amendment is not put to vote until the meeting following the introduction of the amendment.

Section 2 As is

We will have an excellent program for the Annual Meeting; Lowell Thomas' movie of the Mt. Gerdine climb as well as Bob Goodwin's movie on his climb of Ship Rock. So be sure to see the films and vote for your new officers.

WICKERSHAM WALL ASCENT ... full length color movie narrated by Hans Gmoser personally on November 22 at 8 p.m. in the Rowing Hill Auditorium. Tickets will be made available through Ski Shops, Anker Book Shop and ICA members.

McKINLEY - HUNTER TRAVERSE

by Vin Hoeman

"Vin's brought back Sie rpas!" That was Helga's comment when I introduced her to Dave Johnston and Pete Robinson (both well over six feet tall) who came back to Alaska with me this year to scale Denali. Pete, however, decided to put off McKinley to take fire lookout job in Washington. So we needed two more members and Cliff Ellis of ICA and my old Colorado climbing crony, Tom Choate, filled the bill. After the horrors of procrastinated packing in our A Street hole-in-the-wall home, cramming in local climbs, and a last minute (last ditch?) dash up Mt. Marathon, we 3 Anchorageites set out for the Park, Dave & Cliff by train, and I by thumb to intercept Tom, who was coming all the way from Montana by that same mode, having written that he'd meet my pickup at Paxson.

Assembled for the first time the morning of 6 July at park headquarters, we wrangled a final OK from the know-nothings in charge. Then separately by various conveyances we hitched west to Toklat Ranger Station where ranger Chuck Travers was able to take us to a point near Wonder Lake and show us the way to walk to McGonagall. Swarms of mosquitoes lightened our loads of enough blood that we made the Pass in 24 hours. There a stoned ptarmigan and a couple easy little summits put us in good spirits. Three days later we got our airdrop at 8,000' on the Muldrow and found out we all had to turn sherpa to relay everything up Karstens Ridge and the Harper Glacier to Denali Pass. As we passed Browne Tower, many planes buzzing around Wickersham Wall on the 14th, let us to think that the Harvard group had been rubbed out by an avalanche, which is what the rest of the world thought then too. We didn't know that Paul Crews was in Sheldon's apercub that buzzed us, but we figured whoever it was would've dropped a message if we could help.

Nevertheless, as we set up the ICA logan tent at 18,200' on Denali Pass the afternoon of the 18th, we were happily surprised to hear shouts from the direction of the North Peak and part way up the slope a bit later we met all 7 Harvardites coming down to camp nearby us. We went on to the North Summit that evening in perfect weather and on the 19th a record-tying ten of us enjoyed the same ideal conditions atop the 20,320' South Summit. Dave and I brought our small tent and pitched it by the roof peaks of the 1960 Japanese tent (in which Rod Wilson says he changed socks!) to try a night on top of the world (or at least our Continent). After good food and sleep we witnessed the solar eclipse from this vantage point on the 20th - a grand purple shadow. Tom and Cliff came up that day too, Tom for his second time.

From Denali Pass we descended, not the way we'd come, but down West Buttress with 85-pound packs in order to take everything in one load. Our rations had been limited to a bit less than a pound of food per man day up until then, so it was a real luxury to hit old caches and to get our goody-stuffed second airdrop down at 6,250' on the Kahiltina. Cliff had to fly out to the support of his wife and four, but the rest of us had no such responsibilities and stayed for another climb. Since Ad Carter had already put a second ascent on Foraker this year, we decided to do the same to Mt. Hunter, particularly since the 13,967' South Peak of Hunter that Beckey & Harrer hadn't even bothered with was beginning to draw covetous glances from climbers nowadays who were calling it the highest unclimbed peak in North America. The only way that's sane to reach the 13,000' ice plateau of Hunter is the narrow NW Ridge of granite, ice and snow. Not remembering that last year's Mt. Russell party had declared approach to this ridge from the south "impossible" we found a route from that direction. The following day we rockclimbed on fine granite past rappel slings left 9 years ago as the pioneers followed the route Washburn had indicated. On the snow above we straddled a precarious zone between the corniced face to the north and a steep avalanche slope over the cirque to the south. At one point I led too far to the north by a foot, and a huge

-3-

chunk of cornice broke with a boom. Fifty feet down the fluted ice face the rope jerked me to a halt as Tom made a good arrest, but the material I'd broken loose cascaded and avalanched another 3,000 feet. Regaining our composure, we were faced a bit farther up the ridge by a steep slope of blue ice where we had to cut steps and lay from ice pitons for a couple of hours before we reached its top at 11,350' where we leveled a tent platform.

On July 30 we found the main difficulties beneath us as we made our way, without packs for the first time, to the great plateau of Hunter, across to the Middle Peak, 13,470', also a first ascent, and the final mile to our prized South Peak, which yielded a route to us directly up its northern face of snow. Then back we went to a new southern route up the 14,750' North Peak, not arriving till 0200 hours since we'd had to use time cutting through a serac. The descent to the north and west was steep and I fell through a couple of bergschrunds, but we were down to our camp as sunlight colored Foraker's top above a sea of moving clouds, and there we waited out a 2 day storm before descending to the Kahiltina off the end of the ridge we'd come up.

We wanted to do Foraker too, but Tom has a wife as well, a fact that required us to reach Talkeetna at a not too distant date. So we stashed our food surplus on the SE ridge of Foraker in hopes of return in '64 and started to walk out. We knew the Kahiltina is the longest glacier in the Alaska Range, but now we found out what it meant to walk its length. First we had to thread our way through a huge ice fall, falling part way into a hundred crevasses in the process. We about drowned Dave when he went all of 15 feet into one of them and found it full of water. I got a taste of that by walking onto an inviting flat surface that turned out to be a deep pool of slushy water concealed by snow. Two days it took us to get down around the "Great Bend" on bar ice below the firm line, and very soon thereafter the green things lured us off the eastern edge of the glacier for good. We ate the first flowers we came to and voted unanimously that green's the purtiest color comin'. Many an icy stream we had to wade, and the rain-soaked brush crossing Dutch Hills was even worse, but then we came out on the mining road along Cache Creek. At Petersburg we grubbed down and spent a night with the sole inhabitant, Rocky Cummings, whose miners' coffee was so strong we had to dilute it with Kentucky Gentleman to make it thin enough to drink. With sore feet and tired shoulders we pulled into Talkeetna the night of the 17th of August. Had we crossed some mountains off our list? No, only added a score of new ones we must someday climb.

EKLUTNA GLACIER TRAVERSE

19 - 24 August 1963

by John Douman

As is the normal - the Brothers Douman set forth to the gentle pitter patter of an Alaskan spring rain - late as usual. Also as usual the first 3000 feet of Eklutna glacier were quite tiring due partly to conditioning or more probably to the monstrous loads packed with the motive 'complete comfort'. (We forget that carrying also effects comfort. Lo - eventually the foot of Marilyn's Twin Peak was reached and our first camp set up.

Tuesday morning damped but alas the intrepid mountaineers remained oblivious to this fact until at the usual time of 0900 (Douman starting time) we were off to attempt Pk 7646 via the south ridge (now honorably suggested to be named "Bellicose" due to its not positively belligerent attitude but its definitely surly and unpleasant disposition). At noon we sat upon the col and then bravely scrambled forth over alternating fairly good and quite loose rock. For the rest of the afternoon we worked between the ridgeline and the south face until at last only a short series of gendarmes stood between us and the top. These we finished with an 80' rappel from some blocks onto the final col then merrily up a scree slope to the top at 1800 - the view was lovely and extensive - from Pioneer Peak to Raggedtop Mtn, with all the central Chugach neatly lined up. Many photographs later we hurriedly turned back to be off the ridge by dark, but blackest night caught us halfway down. The rest of the ridge was finished by night - I, flashlight in mouth and William with a headlamp. Northern lights were draped on the sky and it was a beautiful night. We reached camp at 0300 the next morning and collapsed.

At 0700 the buzz of aircraft roused us and lo the noble President of MCA had arrived on schedule with our airdrop of steaks and other gastronomic delicacies. Unfortunately he had failed to spot us and with watering mouths we lay in our sleeping bags and heard him fly away. We got off at noon in another drizzle to arrive at the head of Eklutna Glacier soaked and miserable - to bed immediately for 10 hours until the rain stopped - then everything out to dry and back to bed 3 hours later when it started to rain again. We didn't crawl forth till Friday morning (Aug. 23). At this time it actually began to clear and we made excellent time on West Lake George Glacier to the col over Eagle Glacier where we ate lunch. Then picked our way down through crevasses until below snowline - then off like a veritable snail parade across the furrowed field (plowed by giants) of the main bowl on Eagle Glacier to finish for the night on a superior rock hump with grass, birds and water (a possible cabin site). Here we enjoyed the luxury of good weather and leisure - we almost dried out.

Saturday fast track was made up the south leg of Eagle Glacier until we hit the ridge between it and Raven where no less than 8 people were climbing, obviously headed for Raven Pk. We left it to them and decided to drop off the col between this ridge and Goat Mtn. - an error. It rained again, the snow was very hard, the wind blew, and the angle of the slope was better than 45 deg. - we used handily spaced bergschrunds to belay from and roped down it - then out Raven Glacier and into the MCA hut (Crow's Nest) at 1800, to find Vin Moeman, Dave Johnston & Dave Judd. We swiftly sacked out and much

later John Samuelson & Kim Degenhardt strolled in - soaked. Three others arrived at 2130 which seemed somewhat a crowd, so six of us made it out to the broken bridge on the strength of three flashlights and home to Anchorage. Finis.
Sequel: Eklutna lake rose in the interim and my VW was on the wrong side of a 3' deep ford. So it hereby known that VW's float and with a day's labor a crossing was effected, the automobile baled and situation back to normal.

WEDGE PEAK, 10,239'

Aug. 29 to Sept. 3

by John Douman

Wednesday night, Phil Colbert, my brother William and I packed ourselves and our gear into the VW and with haste moved out for McKinley Park, bulging somewhat at the seams and definitely over our prime sole mark. By noon the following day we were effecting a crossing of the thoroughfare below Eielson and on up the left side of the Midrow glacier to make camp that night just short of the glacier leading down from Anderson Pass on a fine green meadow. Unfortunately there was also a grizzly. Being somewhat shortsighted he moved up and we stood fast by our packs - ice axes gripped - with white knuckles and trembling lips. Not too sure of what he had spotted but a tactician of an amateur sort, he then proceeded to turn our flank uphill about 50 ft. away, off and on, stopping to stare. He eventually got our wind and sampled it long and thoughtfully, then ambled off, much to our relief.

The entire following day was spent on an endless moraine - unpleasant by any definition - finally setting up our second camp in the shadow of Mt. Lather. This day was quite discouraging, and the camp wasn't much better - I don't believe moraines on large glaciers have much to recommend them. Our third day contained more of the same until around noon we hit the confluence of Brooks Glacier and found it a gently rolling highway of ice leading us rapidly to over 6000' and our final glacier, dropping out of a bowl between Deception, Lather and Wedge Peaks. This glacier I found quite impressive with the largest crevasses I have ever seen - however, a relatively easy winding route took us over them and up to a rock shelf for the camp at about 8000'.

The following morning we set out for Wedge Peak which we did by an east face snow gully and a most pointed south ridge. We did just a bit of belaying here (the last pitch of the face which was ice and two pitches of ridge of a straddle sort) until the ridge widened and an easy walk was left to the summit. The mountains in this region are beautiful - probably the finest in Alaska - presenting the opportunity for wonderful snow ascents and interesting glacier work. The views are magnificent - McKinley just broods over these peaks and seems but a stone's throw away - some of the most truly high alpine scenery in North America. The early morning sun on McKinley with its pink granite and frosting of snow was unforgettable.

From our high camp both Lather and Deception would have made an interesting day's climb and both presented climbable ridges - especially Lather whose SE ridge appeared easy. It is exceedingly unfortunate that the National Park has declared these peaks off limits except to a major expedition. I trust if this ruling is ever rescinded that this region will come into its own as a climber's playground much as the Tetons or Cascades are now. After two delightful days at our high camp we moved on to Castler Pass the 2nd of Sept., then out to the road across McKinley River on the 3rd.

In closing: Phil found the McKinley River quite damp - and the old Guide's weather predictions were entirely and pessimistically wrong - we had six days of flawless weather with never a night below 28 deg. and some of the best snow conditions I have ever seen.

Climbing is dangerous! Vin finally fell - off his DIBE, went right over the handlebars and broke both elbows. Being on his way to give a talk on his Denali climb, he went and narrated the slides anyway. Afterwards submitted himself to medical authorities and got his self plastered!
Vin requests a meeting of the MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS COMMITTEE on Wednesday, October 16, at 8 p.m. in the A street hole (828 A Street). Anybody interested in making the mountains in our giant playground, please try to make it to that meeting.

ALASKA RESCUE GROUP

Elections for the ARG will be held at the close of the regularly scheduled ICA meeting on November 18, 1963. Five outgoing persons on the Board of Directors will be elected at this time. Those who are vacating Board positions are Felga Bading, John Dillman, Joe Pichler, Bill Davis and Ed Fisher (who has left town several months ago). The two remaining board positions are held by Jim Messick and Dave DeVoe. After these positions are filled, the Chairman of ARG will be determined by the Board members who will vote among themselves.

Qualifications to vote in the Alaska Rescue Group elections include mainly an interest in mountain rescue work, owning a substantial amount of personal climbing and cold weather gear sufficient for rescue work any time of the year. It is also desirable to have a current First-Aid card. Persons voting are reminded that annual dues are due and payable before elections. The \$1.00 dues cover administration expenses. Persons unable to attend the Nov. meeting will vote by ballot, attached to November dues.